

CITY *of* CALABASAS  
**2030 General Plan**

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**IV – Conservation Element**



# CITY *of* CALABASAS

## 2030 General Plan

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# CITY of CALABASAS

## 2030 General Plan

### IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Calabasas recognizes its role as steward of all lands within its jurisdiction, as well as its responsibility to promote and participate in solutions to the global environmental concerns. The City will continue to take an active role in the management of its natural resources for the benefit of present and future residents.

The general goals of the Conservation Element are to:

- *Preserve significant environmental features within Calabasas and provide for their wise management.*
- *Minimize the consumption of natural resources needed to support life in Calabasas and ensure the wise use of those resources.*

Open space and hillside management issues are covered in the Open Space Element (Chapter III). Issues covered in this Conservation Element include:

- *Biotic Resources*
- *Mineral Resources*
- *Soil Conservation and Preservation*
- *Air Quality*
- *Water Resources*
- *Energy Resources*
- *Solid Waste Management*

#### IV.A Biotic Resources

##### Objective

Preserve critical biotic resources and enhance habitat value and biotic resource diversity within the Calabasas area.



## IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### General Plan Approach

Calabasas is home to large expanses of open land, natural hillsides, natural stream channels, wildlife, and panoramic views. It is a high priority of the City to protect and, where feasible, enhance the biological productivity and quality of vegetative and wildlife habitats in Calabasas. Thus, the City will continue to take a proactive approach to the management of biological resources, focusing on promoting the continued existence and enhancement of habitats that support native flora and fauna.

It is the City's intent to preserve large self-sustaining habitat management areas within Calabasas. To that end, the City will continue to facilitate, where possible, public acquisition of lands and open space easements within significant resource areas, while recognizing the existence of private property rights. Calabasas will also continue to work with federal, state, and private entities involved in the protection of the Santa Monica Mountains to establish multi-species habitat conservation programs within the National Recreation Area. Such conservation programs may include acquisition of land and development rights within the National Recreation Area for habitat preservation.

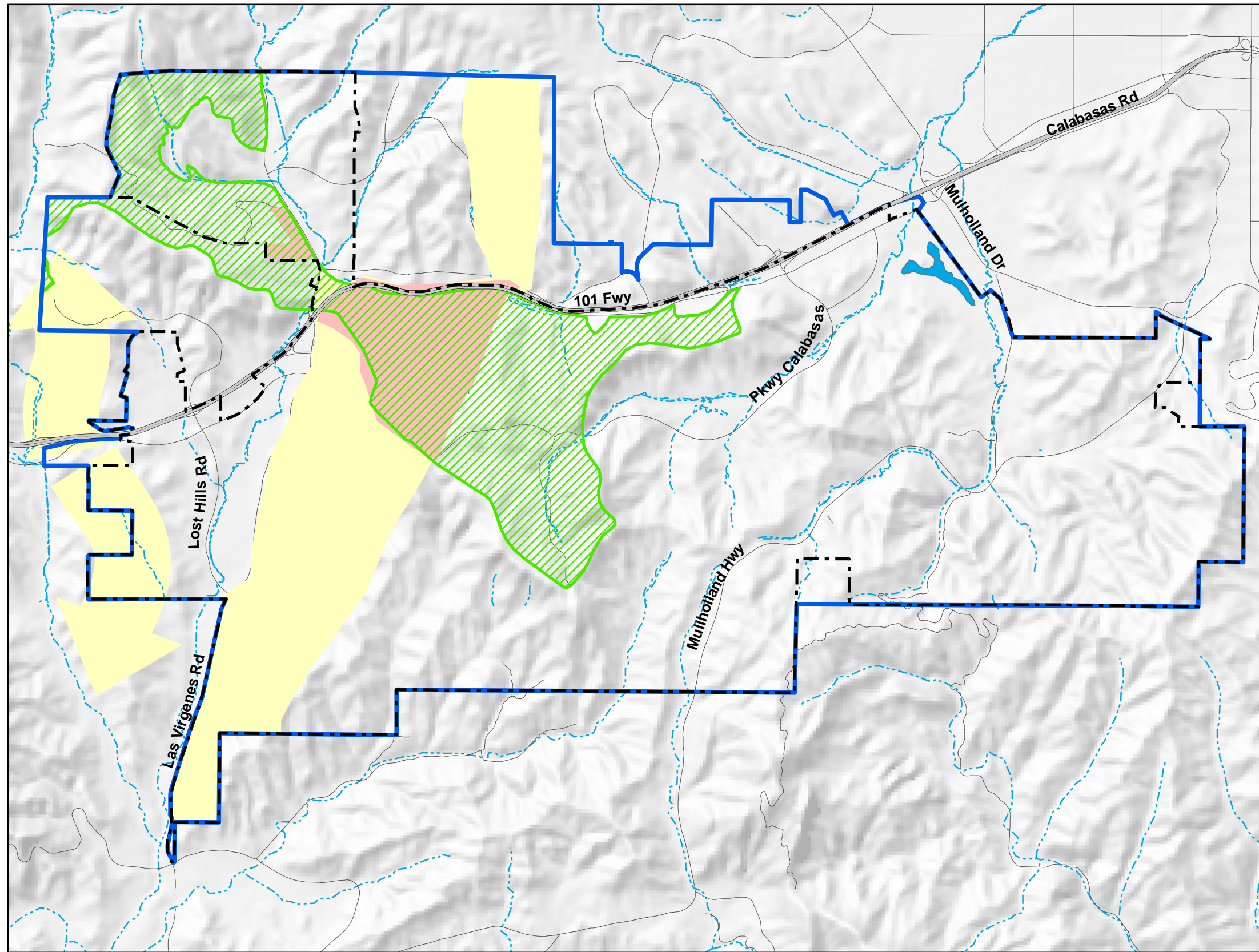
**Figure IV-1** illustrates identified ecological areas, linkages, and wildlife movement corridors in Calabasas, while **Figure IV-2** illustrates the locations of potentially sensitive biological resource areas within and proximate to Calabasas. The General Plan establishes a number of policies and requirements for maximizing the preservation of the habitat areas to the maximum extent feasible while allowing property owners to maintain basic property rights. Programs include development clustering, development rights purchase programs, and financial participation by new development to support these programs.

*Sensitive species are specific organisms that have regionally declining populations such that they may become extinct if declining population trends continue.*

### Policies

- IV-1** Maintain an up-to-date inventory and map of sensitive, threatened, and endangered flora and fauna within Calabasas, as well as sensitive biological habitat areas and habitat linkages.





**LEGEND**

- Calabasas City Boundary
- Plan Area Boundary
- Major Roads
- LA County Significant Ecological Areas
- Wildlife Linkages and Corridors
- Ecological Areas and Corridors

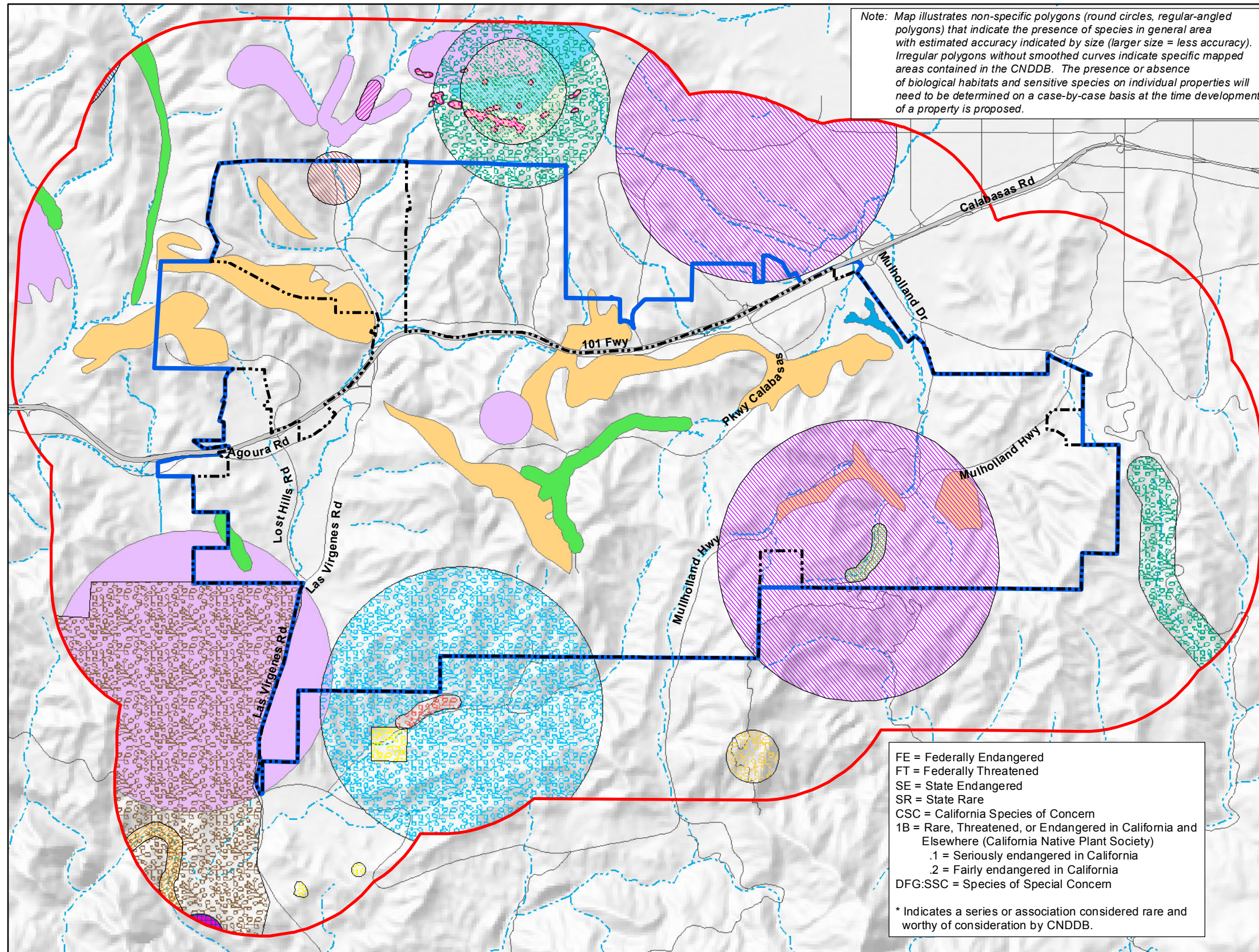
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Figure IV-1  
Significant Ecological Areas,  
Linkages, and Corridors

Basemap imagery provided by USGS, 2002. Additional data layers from City of Calabasas, 2007, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, 2013, and Rincon Consultants, 2009. Updated March 2014.





**LEGEND**

- Calabasas City Boundary
- Plan Area Boundary
- Major Roads
- One-Mile Buffer
- Riparian Corridor
- Animals**
  - California red-legged frog
  - Gertsch's socialchemmis spider
  - Arroyo chub
  - Burrowing owl
  - Coast (San Diego) horned lizard
  - Coastal California gnatcatcher
  - Golden eagle
- Plants**
  - Braunton's milk-vetch
  - Malibu baccharis
  - Plummer's mariposa-lily
  - San Fernando Valley spineflower
  - Santa Susana tarplant
  - Marcescent dudleya
  - Round-leaved filaree
  - Slender mariposa-lily
- Habitats**
  - California Walnut Woodland
  - Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest
  - Valley Needlegrass Grassland
  - Valley Oak Woodland

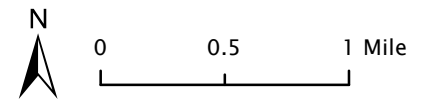


Figure IV-2  
Sensitive Biological Resources  
In and Around Calabasas

Basemap imagery provided by USGS, 2002. Additional data layers from: California Natural Diversity Database, January, 2008, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, December, 2007, Rincon Consultants, 2008, U.S. Bureau of the Census TIGER 2000 data, and ESRI, 2002. Updated March 2014.



## IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

**IV-2** Ensure that new developments, including roads, maintain the biotic habitat value of riparian areas, oak woodlands, habitat linkages, and other sensitive biological habitats. Specifically, the following are unacceptable biological impacts:

- *Net loss of wetlands or riparian vegetation*
- *Measurable reduction in species diversity*
- *Loss of breeding and roosting areas, foraging areas, habitat linkages, or food sources that will result in a measurable reduction in the reproductive capacity of biotic resources*

**IV-3** Require new developments on properties that include sensitive biotic habitats to cluster development in the least sensitive portions of the property and preserve and/or restore the most sensitive resources without creating urban development patterns in rural areas.

**IV-4** As feasible and without creating public safety concerns, restore riparian corridors to a natural or quasi-natural condition.

**IV-5** Maintain buffers between natural riparian areas and development in order to avoid disturbance of riparian habitat and wildlife movement.

**IV-6** Require separation of construction activities from sensitive biological resources through the use of buffers, setbacks, and temporary protective fencing.

**IV-7** Regulate construction activities to eliminate potentially destructive practices that adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas.

**IV-8** Maintain strategic alliances with federal and state agencies involved in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to ensure the ongoing management of areas that are preserved because of their biological significance.

### IV.B Urban Forestry

#### Objective

Create and sustain an urban forest that enhances the quality of life within Calabasas.



## IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### General Plan Approach

An urban forest is the sum total of all vegetation growing in an urban area. The quality of landscaping and the existence of an urban forest within a community helps determine the overall visual character of the built environment. Restoration and maintenance of the urban forest requires the development and implementation of an urban forestry management program.

The benefits of urban trees are numerous. Trees beautify the City, and give the streets their character. They protect the quality of scenic corridors by screening unsightly features and reinforcing the natural character of such areas. Trees strengthen the visual quality of the streetscape, providing the basic structure around which all activity occurs. Thematic planting programs unify a neighborhood, providing a sense of identity.

Even in the most urban environment, trees increase contact with nature, presenting birds and sights that vary over the seasons. Trees mitigate the effects of air pollution, urban “heat island” effect, and solar heat reflection. Finally, trees enhance and protect values within the community. All of the benefits described above are goals that the City will achieve through implementation of an urban forestry program.

Calabasas has adopted an Oak Tree Ordinance that requires reforestation, registration, and preservation of all healthy oak trees, unless reasonable and conforming use of a property justifies the removal, transplanting, altering, and/or encroachment into the oak tree’s protected zone. The Ordinance also requires establishment of an Oak Habitat Preservation Program to provide for reforestation and replacement of woodlands, public acquisition of woodlands, and public education regarding habitat preservation. Continued enforcement of the Oak Tree Ordinance will be a key component of the maintenance and enhancement of the urban forest in Calabasas.

The City has also adopted an Urban Forestry Strategic Plan to create and maintain an urban forest that enhances the quality of life in Calabasas. The plan’s objectives include visual quality enhancement, resource protection, and pollution abatement. This plan will also continue to be an important component of the City’s program to enhance the urban forest.

### Policies

**IV-9** Continue to enforce the City’s Oak Tree Ordinance.





## IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

- IV-10 Preserve existing mature trees, unless they are detrimental to public health and safety.
- IV-11 Promote the planting of additional trees in urban locations. Plantings should include replacement of trees that are, or have been, removed and new trees in locations where none are currently present.
- IV-12 Provide adequate resources to maintain the urban forest in a safe and healthy manner.
- IV-13 Expand the inventory of City street trees.

### IV.C Air Quality

#### Objectives

- ❖ Achieve and maintain air quality levels that meet or exceed Federal and State standards by achieving consistency of General Plan policies and subsequent new development projects with the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and the air quality provisions of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).
- ❖ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels as stipulated in the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32).

#### General Plan Approach

Good air quality is important for the health of those who work and live in Calabasas, and for the visual beauty of the area. Calabasas is located at the northwestern boundary of the South Coast Air Basin, and is a route for air exchange between the coastal and inland valley areas. The ocean breezes create relatively good air quality conditions in Calabasas compared to much of the Basin. However, air pollution produced by activities in Calabasas is carried downwind to other parts of the Basin. Therefore, the City has an obligation, as well as a desire, to reduce local air pollutant emissions and contribute to the improvement of regional air quality. In addition to the direct health threats posed by many air pollutants, certain pollutants are considered greenhouse gases that, when emitted into the atmosphere, contribute to global climate change. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, and nitrous oxide, all of which are generated in part by human activity. Thus, actions taken by the City to reduce air pollution in the



#### IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Calabasas area will also help reduce the City's contribution to global climate change. This is consistent with AB 32, which calls for a greenhouse gas emissions cap for 2020 that would reduce such emissions to 1990 levels (essentially a 25% reduction below 2005 emission levels).

Automobiles are the primary sources of air pollution in Calabasas. Secondary sources include individual facilities such as residences and commercial establishments and equipment on construction sites. The potential adverse health effects from air pollution can be significant, both in the short term during smog alerts, and in the long term from prolonged exposure to pollutants.

*AB 32 mandates annual reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from greenhouse gas sources and sets emission limits to cut the California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.*

While the majority of the populace can overcome short periods of poor air quality, selected segments of the population are more vulnerable. Specifically, young children, the elderly, and people with existing health problems are most susceptible to respiratory complications. These segments of the population tend to congregate in land uses that are thereby designated sensitive receptors, including schools (particularly pre-schools and nursery schools), hospitals, and senior housing. Sensitive receptors in Calabasas include the Motion Picture and Television Fund facility, the Silverado Senior Living community, and local schools. The City places special emphasis on protecting these sensitive receptors from unacceptable concentrations of air pollutants.

To address air quality issues in southern California, the South Coast Air Quality Management District has developed an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The policies in this Air Quality section of the Conservation Element reflect Calabasas' intent to implement the provisions of this regional plan at the local level.

Policies in the AQMP address air pollution generated directly from individual facilities, such as sulfur oxide emitted from industrial facilities, through a permitting process and onsite control measures. Calabasas will also work to reduce the amount of air pollution indirectly generated by facilities, such as the emissions generated by a remotely located power plant as a result of electricity use at a facility within the City, by promoting energy conservation.

Emissions from existing transportation activities pose a more complex problem, as they are related to development patterns and lifestyle choices made by local residents.



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Sprawling development and the widespread use of single occupant vehicles have been major reasons for the air pollution problems in the South Coast Air Basin. The cities and communities within the greater Los Angeles area have largely been laid out in a manner that is dependent on the automobile, linked together with an extensive street and freeway system dedicated primarily to the private automobile.

Reliance on the private automobile can be reduced through innovative transportation control measures and transportation demand management programs, as well as communitywide public awareness and governmental leadership to promote alternatives to the private automobile. Reducing dependency on the use of single occupant automobiles, both now and in the future, will reduce the overall number of vehicle trips and will have a positive effect on the regional air emission burden.

Emissions from new development, including construction emissions and the emissions from vehicle trips generated by the development, are addressed through the project review process. For any proposed development that entails more than the “basic land use intensity” described in **Table II-1** of the Land Use Element, the City will require specific emission reductions for new development as compared to “unmitigated” emissions. Such emission reductions can be achieved through implementation of a variety of possible control measures for different project types, including energy conservation measures, alternative energy measures, and trip reduction measures. Development proponents are allowed to select the specific control measures that are most appropriate to their project.

### Policies

- IV-14** Minimize reliance on single occupant vehicle travel and reduce the number of vehicles on City streets during peak travel hours by maintaining transportation demand management programs in commercial and business park developments consistent with the South Coast Air Quality Management Plan.
- IV-15** Minimize the need for vehicular travel through incorporation of transit and other transportation alternatives such as walking and bicycling into the design of new commercial, office, and business park developments.
- IV-16** Consistent with the City’s Bicycle Master Plan, promote a system of bicycle routes within Calabasas that provide recreational opportunities and represent viable routes for travel between home and school or work.



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- IV-17** Ensure that construction activity within Calabasas complies with applicable South Coast Air Quality Management District rules and policies.
- IV-18** Minimize emissions of air pollutants, including greenhouse gases, generated by electricity and natural gas consumption through implementation of the energy conservation policies listed in subchapter IV.F and the solid waste recycling policies listed in subchapter IV.G.
- IV-19** Reduce per capita emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 25% from 2005 levels as stipulated in AB 32.
- IV-20** Require applicants for projects containing sensitive receptors (such as residences, schools, day care centers, and medical facilities) on sites within 500 feet of the Ventura Freeway to demonstrate that health risks relating to diesel particulates would not exceed SCAQMD health risk standards prior to project approval.

### IV.D Water Resources

#### Objectives

- ❖ Minimize water consumption by existing and new development through an emphasis on drought-tolerant planting techniques, use of water-efficient plumbing, and water reclamation.
- ❖ Limit development in Calabasas to levels that are within the service capabilities of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD).
- ❖ Meet National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water quality standards for runoff from developed areas.
- ❖ Maintain water quality within natural drainage courses in order to avoid adverse effects upon resource dependent recreation as well as the biological carrying capacity of the riparian areas associated with the drainage courses.

#### General Plan Approach

Calabasas recognizes the critical nature of water resources relative to regional growth in southern California. Water service in the City is provided by the Las



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Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD), which purchases imported water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a water wholesaler. Calabasas has no local source of drinking water. However, the LVMWD uses recycled water, recovered from the wastewater treatment process at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, for irrigation of public landscaping such as highway medians, golf courses, and school grounds.

Reducing the City's dependence on imported water through the use of water conservation measures increases the chances of recovery in the event of drought or other emergency and saves money and energy associated with transporting water. Water conservation methods apply to all new developments, including proposals to intensify or remodel existing office, business park, retail, or multi-family developments. The City's water conservation performance objectives and LVMWD requirements for strict water conservation include: water conserving fixture design and installation; ultra-low flow toilets; hot water circulation systems; use of drought tolerant plantings and efficient irrigation systems and techniques; and maximum use of recycled water during and after construction.

Landscaping on residential and commercial properties is subject to City review consistent with the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. Commercial properties requiring service are subject to LVMWD review of plumbing plans prior to approval, and onsite inspections once constructed to ensure proper compliance. The LVMWD reviews residential proposals for adequate fire sprinkler flows and proper meter sizing. Conservation measures will continue to be implemented to achieve the City's objective of minimizing the per capita rate of water consumption within Calabasas.

Another challenge involving water resources in Calabasas is the maintenance of good water quality through stormwater management. Surface water bodies in Calabasas and associated floodplains are shown on **Figure IV-3**.

The City addresses water quality concerns by ensuring that designs for pollutant management are part of the overall planning and approval processes for new development proposals. As a "co-permittee" under the Federal Clean Water Act (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System – NPDES), the City has adopted the Los Angeles County Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) and has updated the SUSMP in accordance with regional requirements issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The City will continue to fulfill its water quality responsibilities as a co-permittee under the NPDES program by requiring the use of best management practices (BMPs) on new development and redevelopment. Calabasas will



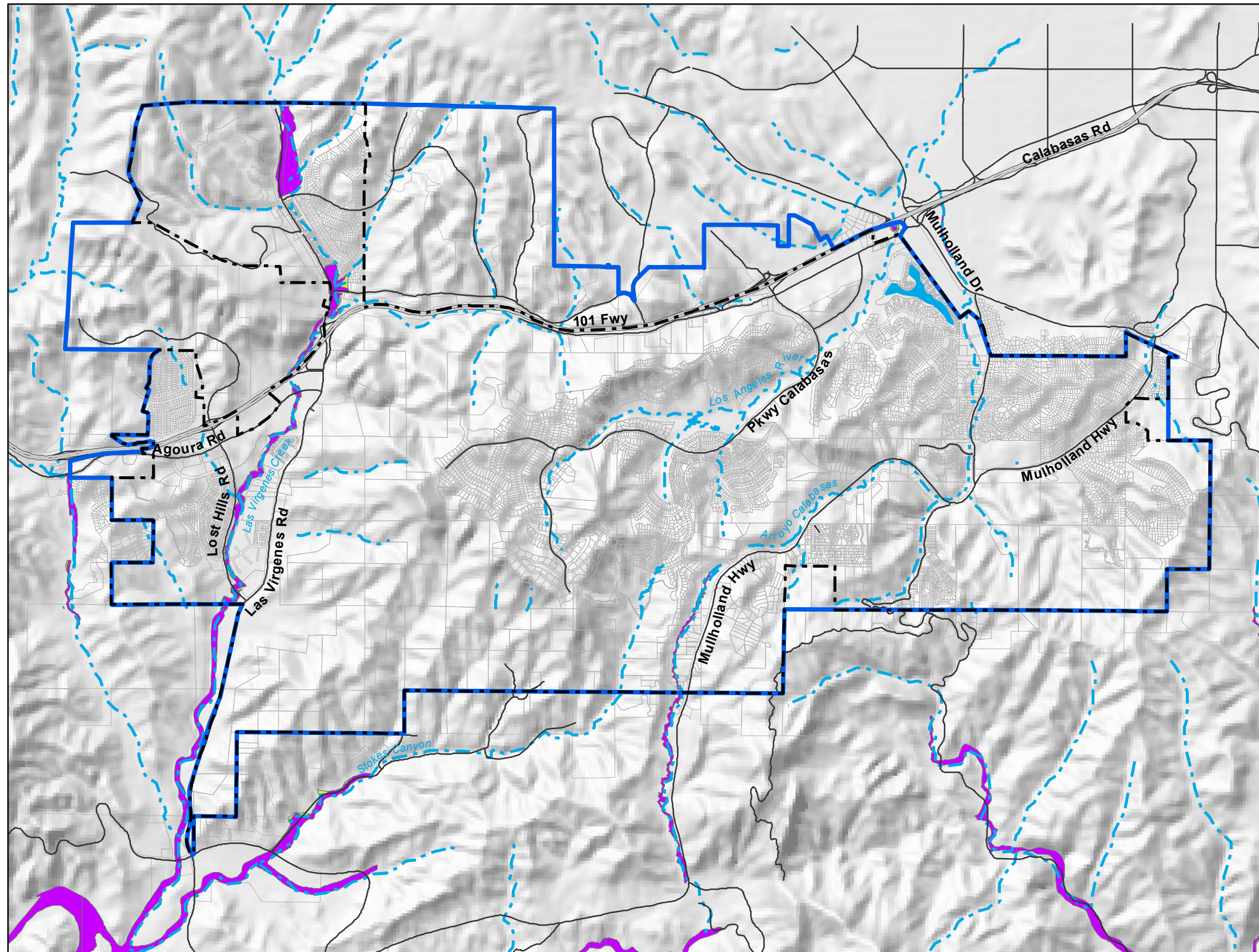
#### IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

also continue to monitor emerging technologies and techniques of minimizing water quality impacts from municipal runoff, and to require the implementation of new BMPs as they are devised.

##### Policies

- IV-21 Coordinate land development review with the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to support any new development.
- IV-22 Ensure that new buildings are designed to minimize domestic water use based on the requirements of the City's Green Building Ordinance and consider establishing incentives to achieve greater water use efficiencies than are required by the Ordinance.
- IV-23 Promote the use of drought-tolerant plants and efficient landscape irrigation design in existing developed areas and as part of new public and private development approvals.
- IV-24 Where reclaimed water service is or can be made available, promote the use of dual water systems on new development to facilitate the use reclaimed wastewater for landscape irrigation.
- IV-25 Protect natural drainage courses within Calabasas and maintain appropriate setbacks from riparian habitats.
- IV-26 Continue undertaking the activities necessary to fulfill the City's responsibilities as a co-permittee under the Federal Clean Water Act, including implementation of the Los Angeles County Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan. Continue to monitor emerging technologies and techniques for minimizing water quality impacts from municipal runoff, and update the SUSMP as new Best Management Practices are established.
- IV-27 Require runoff mitigation plans as part of the application and development review process that illustrate the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be employed to prevent pollutants from running off the project site into area waterways. BMPs may include, but are not limited to, the use of biofiltration techniques and/or provision of subsurface filtering.





**LEGEND**

- Calabasas City Boundary
- Plan Area Boundary
- Major Roads
- Drainages
- FEMA Flood Zone**
- (100-year Floodplain (Zone A))
- (500-year Floodplain (Zone X500))

N

0 0.5 1 Mile

Figure IV-3  
Drainages and Floodways  
in Calabasas

Basemap imagery provided by USGS, 2002. Additional data layers from: Federal Emergency Management Agency Q3 Flood Data, May 1996, FIRM Panel No. 0607490000A, Rincon Consultants, Inc., 2008, and City of Calabasas, 2007. Updated March 2014.



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- IV-28** Continue to require the use of BMPs during site grading and construction to control temporary erosion and offsite deposition of soils.
- IV-29** Continue to promote the reduction of waterborne pollutants and sedimentation from existing uses through public education, erosion control, and implementation of Best Management Practices.

### IV.E Soil Conservation and Preservation

#### Objective

Avoid potentially significant impacts relating to soil erosion through the application of appropriate soil management techniques.

#### General Plan Approach

Grading and construction associated with development projects can cause soil erosion, including removal of topsoil, and can create large amounts of dust. The City will continue to require developers to implement water erosion control plans in accordance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements and dust control plans in accordance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) requirements.

Grading can also result in significant changes to site topography, which can in turn result in long-term topsoil loss. In addition, unbalanced grading can create the need for transport of soils on or offsite. Consequently, to the maximum extent practical, alteration of natural landforms should be minimized and grading should be balanced onsite.

#### Policies

- IV-30** Require the use of best management practices for soil erosion control as part of any grading activity or natural landform alteration. Additionally, require erosion control measures prior to grading operations commencement.
- IV-31** Promote balanced onsite grading operations to eliminate the need for transporting soils on or offsite. In addition, promote phased grading operations instead of mass grading. The extent of clearing and grubbing





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operations, as well as the area being graded at any particular point in time, should be limited to the minimum necessary.

- IV-32** Regulate construction activities to eliminate potentially destructive practices that remove topsoil or place soils in areas intended to be preserved in open space, as well as practices such as dumping of construction wastes in unauthorized areas, washing out concrete trucks and spreading lime-laden water.

### IV.F Energy Resources

#### Objective

Minimize per capita consumption of non-renewable energy resources within Calabasas through promotion of efficient land use patterns, reductions in vehicle miles traveled, incorporation of best management practices for energy conservation into new and existing development, and increased use of alternative sources of energy.

#### General Plan Approach

Reducing the amount of non-renewable energy consumed by Calabasas residents and businesses will reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and will allow many users to save money over time through reduced utility costs. Opportunities for the City to promote energy conservation are available at the community/neighborhood, site, and building design scales (see the box on the following page).

Energy can be saved by incorporating passive heating and cooling measures such as south facing windows that allow heat from the sun in, so that active measures such as a natural gas-powered furnace are not necessary. Energy consumption through indirect uses can often be reduced through careful planning, such as reviewing landscape plans to ensure that the design requires minimal water and fuel to maintain the landscape. The City of Calabasas will continue to promote such energy conservation measures.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. Though largely focused on energy efficiency, LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability that also considers sustainable site development, water savings, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.



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*Energy Conservation Opportunities*

**Community/Neighborhood Design:** *The City can reduce the consumption of gasoline and diesel fuel in vehicles by improving pedestrian and bicycle circulation within Calabasas, and promoting mixed use development where residents can live near where they work and shop, thus reducing the need for, and distance of, vehicle trips.*

**Site Design:** *Site design affects energy consumption in several ways. Structure orientation and placement partly determine the effectiveness of passive heating and cooling design measures at the building scale. Structure orientation affects the amount of solar gain and the effectiveness of solar shading devices (e.g. shade trees near building facades, permanent awnings, and solar shade screens). Site design can influence the natural ventilation and shading during the cooling season, and the use of south facing facades for passive solar heating systems. Site design can also have an effect on indirect energy uses, such as water use for irrigation.*

**Building Design:** *The energy used to operate a building can be categorized into direct and indirect uses. Space conditioning (heating and cooling) and appliance operation are the most direct energy uses. Water supply, waste water treatment, and solid waste disposal consume energy indirectly. Use of energy efficient or alternative energy technologies as well as technologies that minimize water use and waste generation can substantially reduce overall energy consumption.*

The City has embraced the LEED system and will continue to do so in the future. The City's Green Building Ordinance requires new non-residential structures of between 500 and 5,000 square feet to achieve a LEED "Certified" rating and requires buildings of over 5,000 square feet to achieve at least a "Silver" rating. In addition, the Calabasas Civic Center is the first municipal complex of its kind in the United States to achieve Gold LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



## IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### Policies

**IV-33** Continue to implement the City's Green Building Ordinance to achieve energy efficiency and consider establishing incentives to achieve energy efficiencies higher than those required by the Ordinance.

**IV-34** Promote community/neighborhood designs that minimize energy use. For example:

- *Identify and implement programs to facilitate safe and pleasant pedestrian circulation.*
- *Establish and maintain a communitywide system of bicycle lanes and coordinate the development of a regional bicycle system with neighboring jurisdictions.*
- *Promote the development of fueling facilities for alternative fuel vehicles.*
- *Promote development and redevelopment of mixed use designs that allow residents to live near where they work and shop.*

**IV-35** Promote site designs that minimize energy use. For example:

- *Develop building groups or clusters with plazas or open areas that promote exterior accessibility and enjoyment within a protected environment.*
- *Construct internal circulation roadways at the minimum widths necessary for safe circulation to minimize solar reflection and heat radiation.*
- *Where possible, locate reflective surfaces on the north and east side of buildings to minimize potential heat gain and reflection to adjacent buildings.*
- *Use light-colored pavement to reduce the urban "heat island" effect.*
- *Orient the maximum amount of non-reflective glass possible toward the south to maximize solar access.*
- *Incorporate the use of broad, deciduous trees in landscaping plans, especially near buildings and in and around large expanses of parking lots or other paved areas.*

**IV-36** Promote building designs that minimize energy use. For example:

- *Use appropriate building shapes and locations to promote maximum feasible solar access to individual units.*



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- *Design individual buildings to maximize natural internal lighting through the use of court wells, interior patio areas, and building architecture.*
- *Promote light colored roofs to reduce the urban heat island effect, unless a passive heating system is incorporated with a darker roof.*
- *Use canopies and overhangs to shade windows during summer months while allowing for reflection of direct sunlight during winter months.*
- *Install windows and vents in commercial and industrial buildings to provide the opportunity for natural ventilation.*
- *Incorporate deciduous vines on walls, trellises and canopies to shade south and west facing walls to cool them in summer months.*

**IV-37** Promote the incorporation of feasible energy conservation measures into existing and new developments and structures. Feasible measures may include, but are not limited to, the use of evaporative cooling systems and the incorporation of solar panels.

**IV-38** Minimize the amount of energy consumed by City operations by taking a leadership role in the application of new technologies, and work toward incorporating technologies such as fuel cells, solar energy, and co-generation into new development and expansion of City facilities. Where appropriate, cooperate with Southern California Edison, The Gas Company, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District to set up energy conservation demonstration projects, and to serve as a laboratory for testing new energy conservation techniques.

**IV-39** Promote the use of alternative energy sources such as solar energy, co-generation, and non-fossil fuels. Ways in which alternative energy can be promoted include, but are not limited to, incorporation of solar panels on structures and provision of fueling stations for alternative fuel vehicles.

**IV-40** Support State and Federal legislation that would, in an appropriate manner, make progress toward eliminating wasteful energy consumption.



## IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

### IV.G Solid Waste Management

#### Objective

Minimize the amount of solid waste generated within Calabasas and maximize participation in source reduction, recycling, and composting activities.

#### General Plan Approach

As in most cities, there is great potential to reduce solid waste generation within Calabasas. Recycling and composting help divert waste from landfilling, and often result in cost savings. Calabasas has met the State goals of Assembly Bill (939), which requires 50% solid waste diversion. New regulations are currently being reviewed that would increase the diversion rate to 75% by 2020. The City will continue to make efforts to achieve diversion goals.

The Calabasas Sanitary Landfill is expected to close during the lifetime of the General Plan. Calabasas realizes the urgency of the situation and plans on making arrangements to ensure that waste disposal needs are met. In response, the City promotes solid waste reduction through 35 diversion programs aimed at reducing the amounts of solid waste going to landfills. Major programs include residential and commercial site pickup, government source reduction, greenwaste reduction, electronic disposal, recycling, economic incentives, and educational programs.

#### Policies

- IV-41** Continue to meet or exceed state requirements for the diversion of solid waste from landfills.
- IV-42** Adhere to the following hierarchy of integrated solid waste management options:
- *Recognize source reduction as the waste management option of choice.*
  - *Exhaust source reduction, recycling, and composting possibilities before resorting to landfilling of solid wastes.*
- IV-43** To reduce the volume and toxicity of products and packaging, encourage the purchase of products and packaging that: (1) are recyclable and/or are made with recyclable materials; (2) use minimal packaging; and (3) have reduced toxicity.



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- IV-44** To change patterns of consumption that produce unnecessary waste generation, encourage the following:
- *Replacement of disposable materials and products with reusable materials and products*
  - *Reduction of yard waste through backyard composting and low maintenance landscaping*
  - *purchase of products with longer life spans, and products that are easily repairable*
  - *Recycling of construction wastes*
  - *Purchase of products that reduce energy consumption*
- IV-45** Ensure that adequate landfill capacity is available to meet the City's future solid waste disposal needs.

### IV.H Mineral Resources

#### Objective

Manage mineral resources, if any, within Calabasas in a manner that emphasizes the significance and sensitivity of the local natural environment rather than the conservation and development of identified mineral resources.

#### General Plan Approach

The primary mineral resource found in southern California is construction aggregate. The City of Calabasas lies mainly on sedimentary rock, which is typically not associated with aggregate resources. A 1994 report by the California Geological Survey designated areas in the western portion of Calabasas as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 1, indicating that no significant mineral deposits are present. The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 does not require local governments to protect land designated as MRZ 1.

The remainder of the City is designated MRZ 3, indicating that the significance of mineral resources could not be evaluated from available data. The City is responsible for recognizing lands designated as MRZ 3 and, if significant aggregate resources are ultimately found, State policy favors conservation and development of those resources. However, the City is permitted to adopt plans that discourage development of mineral



## IV. CONSERVATION ELEMENT

resources, subject to the approval of the State Mining and Geology Board, if existing land uses or sensitive environmental conditions preclude safe, environmentally sound mineral extraction.

### Policy

- IV-46** Continue to prohibit the establishment of mineral extraction operations that could result in significant biological, traffic, air quality, visual, hillside preservation, or quality of life impacts.

